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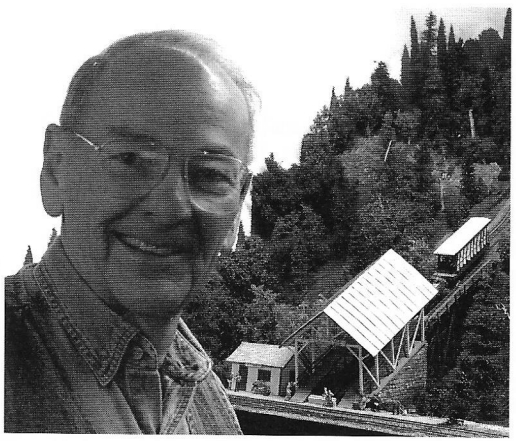
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Dick Genthner Earns MMR 330



Dick Genthner first got involved with model railroading, as so many others did, via the Lionel train route. The first train he remembers is a standard-gauge Lionel set followed by other O-gauge tinplate trains.

The whole family was involved. Dick, his older brother, Glen, and their dad, Glen Sr., moved ahead with an O scale layout on the second floor of a two-car garage while the brothers were in high school. This model railroad was called the "Glenwood and Dixon" line.

After college and marrying his childhood sweetheart, Pat, plus a tour in the Navy during the Korean War, Dick constructed a portable HO scale layout that folded up and could be stored under a double bed. With the wiring hanging out underneath, the movers always thought it was a large stereo set like those of that time. This was the first "Arpee and Western" railroad.

Following the military tour, there were numerous civilian jobs, home relocations and the arrival of three daughters, all of which slowed down the model railroad activities. Finally, in the 1970s, the newest home had a basement with space for a workshop and an HO layout. This became the third of five reincarnations of the Arpee and Western.

After retirement and a move to North Carolina, the dreams of a larger, operating railroad came to be realized. The retirement home had to have a suitable basement (plus be near a golf course) and thus the fifth version of the Arpee and Western came into being.

About the same time Dick became associated with Jack Frame and his "Monon" operating group and became hooked on building a model railroad designed for operating. In 1995, Dick started the AWOGs (Arpee and Western Operating Group) with only four members. As the railroad expanded, the AWOGs grew to a group of fifteen or so operators who now enjoy operations on three different local model railroads. The AWOGs operate the A&W at least once a month plus operating two other railroads that are part of the group, Dil Huey's Brandwine Valley and Ed Dougherty's Pennsylvania Railroad-Eno Division.

The Arpee and Western is a freelance model of a 1930s steam-powered railroad operating in the Catskill Mountain area of New York. It interconnects with two other regional railroads called the Glenwood and Dixon and the Ulster and Delaware. Presently, the A&W is fully operational and the scenery is complete. The newest addition is an operating cable car railway called the Otis Elevating Railway, based on a prototype from up state New York in the early 1900s. Negotiations are underway for a future expansion into the workshop area.

Dick first became a member of the NMRA in 1945. Although a member of the NMRA and the NER for many years, making a living kept Dick from being active in the associations. He is a charter member of the Carolina Piedmont Division of the Mid-Eastern Region and this has turned out to be a very rewarding experience.

He served as Superintendent for over two years and as Achievement Program chairman twice. Dick and his wife, Pat, have found time to travel to three national conventions and numerous MER conventions. Serving as an apprentice judge at several MER convention model contests provided him with the inspiration to move ahead in the AP. His thanks go out to all those who have been such patient teachers and supporters, including Dil Huey, Ed Dougherty, Jack Frame, Dave Lynam, Jim Kellow, Roger Cason and Ray Bilodeau. Most of all he is most thankful for the help and support of his wife of 51 years.

Dick holds the AP certificates for Master Builder-Cars, Master Builder-Scenery, Engineer-Electrical, Engineer-Civil, Chief Dispatcher, Author and Association Volunteer.